

## **Attachment 6: Water System Planning Consistency with Local Plans and Development Regulations**

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### **Background**

Consistency with local plans has been part of the Drinking Water regulations (WAC 246-290-100(4)(a)(iii)) since 1977. The Municipal Water Supply - Efficiency Requirements Act, Chapter 5, Laws of 2003 (Municipal Water Law), further emphasized that the Department of Health's (DOH) planning processes become more closely aligned with local comprehensive plans and development regulations. Changes to the Water Code (RCW 90.03.386) require consistency of the water utility's service area with local land use plans, comprehensive plans, coordinated water system plans, watershed plans, and development regulations. The new section added to the State Board of Health Code (RCW 43.20) states that water service provided to new customers must be consistent with local land use plans, comprehensive plans and development regulations.

### **Service Areas**

The retail service area, and any other area not served by a separate public water system, defined in a water system plan (WSP) or small water system management program (SWSMP) depicts where a water system currently provides water service as well as where it plans to provide water service in the future.

### **Demand Forecast**

WSPs forecast the water demand a water utility expects to serve within the next six years and 20-year planning horizons. Forecasting methodologies should be consistent with local planning population growth projections for the service area described in the WSP. If alternatives are used to project water demand, justification for the growth projection and methodology must be provided in the WSP.

### **Demonstrating Consistency**

Prior to WSP submittal to the DOH, water systems need to work with local governments in whose jurisdiction they provide water service to ensure consistency. There will be two acceptable approaches to demonstrate to the DOH that consistency has been achieved:

1. The local jurisdiction(s) verifies consistency and provides documentation to DOH.
2. If a water utility has attempted to gain verification of consistency from the local jurisdiction but the local jurisdiction has not responded within 60

days, the highest authority within the water utility must provide documentation of consistency to DOH.

DOH regional office planners may be able to help the utility make the appropriate contacts at the local level to obtain consistency determination.

**For More Information:**

Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water, Regional Offices:

Southwest Regional Office	360-664-0768
Northwest Regional Office	253-395-6750
Eastern Regional Office	509-456-3115